

CHAPTER 6

THE ARRIVAL OF AL MAHDI

Abu Ya'la and Ibn 'Asakir narrated from Abu Sa'id ؓ that he said: "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

"There will be at the end of time, when trials are prevalent and time passes quickly, an amir whose first gift to the people is that a man will come to him so he will pile wealth for him into his cloak. He will worry about who to give the charity of that wealth to, due to the great abundance that the people will have acquired."

Nu'aym ibn Hammad narrated from Matar al-Warraq that he said:

"The Mahdi will not come until kufr in Allah is openly committed."

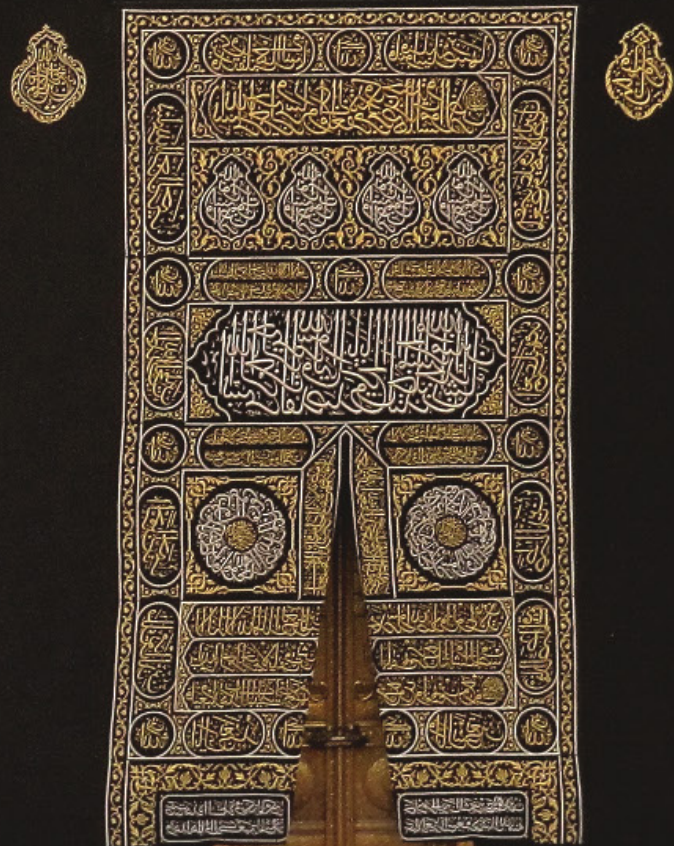
And he also narrated from Ibn Sirin that he said:

"The Mahdi will not come until seven out of every nine are killed."

And he also narrated from Sa'id ibn al-Musayyib that he said:

"There will be a trial, whose beginning will be the meddling of young boys. Every time it quiets from one side, it will flare up from another, and it will not end until a caller announces from the sky: "Verily, your amir is so-and-so!"

Then Ibn al-Musayyib spread his hands wide until they were shaking, and said three times: "That one is truly the amir!"



And at-Tabarani narrated in al-Awsat from Talhah ibn ‘Ubaydillah ؓ from the Prophet ﷺ that he said:

“There will be a trial that will not quieten from one end except that it will flare up again in another, until a caller announces from the sky: “Your amir is so-and-so!”

And Ibn Abi Shaybah narrated from ‘Asim ibn ‘Amr al-Bajli that Abu Umamah ؓ said:

“An announcement in the name of a man will be made from the sky; no low person will reject it, and no high person will deny it.”

And ad-Dani narrated from al-Hakam ibn ‘Utaybah, about Muhammad ibn ‘Ali, that he said to him:

“I have heard that a man will come from you who will rule this Ummah justly.”

So he said: “We hope for what the people hope for, and we hope that if only a single day remained for this world, that day would be lengthened until there happens that which this Ummah is hoping for. But before that, there is a trial, an evil trial in which a man will be a believer in the evening and an infidel in the morning, or a believer in the morning and an infidel in the evening. So whoever among you lives to see that, then let him fear Allah, preserve his religion, and stay inside his home.”

And Abu Nu’aym and al-Hakim narrated from Abu Sa’id ؓ that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“The Mahdi will come from my Ummah. Allah will send him as a saviour for the people. The Ummah will enjoy bounty, the livestock will increase, the earth will bring forth its crops, and he will give out wealth equitably.”

And Ibn Majah and Abu Nu’aym narrated from Abu Hurayrah ؓ from the Prophet ﷺ that he said:

“If there remained in this world only one day, Allah would prolong it until a man from my household would rule, who shall conquer Constantinople and the mountain of ad-Daylam.”

And Nu’aym ibn Hammad narrated, with an authentic chain according to the conditions of Muslim, from ‘Ali ؓ that he said:

“The trials are four: Fitnat as-Sarra’ [the trial of ease and luxury], Fitnat adh-Dharra’ [the trial of severe hardship], and a trial like this – and he mentioned the gold-mine – then a man will come from the descendants of the Prophet ﷺ, by whose hands Allah will rectify their affair.”

And al-Hakim narrated from Abu Sa’id al-Khudri ؓ that he said: “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“At the end of time, a severe tribulation will descend upon my Ummah from their ruler. A worse tribulation will not have been heard of before, until the earth’s expanse is constricted upon them, and until the earth is filled with tyranny and oppression, so that the believer will find no refuge from the oppression. Then, Allah ﷻ will send a man from my descendants who will fill the earth with equity and justice as it had been filled with oppression and tyranny. The inhabitants of the heavens and the earth will be pleased with him. The earth will not withhold any of its growth, but will bring it out, neither will the sky withhold a drop, but Allah will pour it out upon them in showers. He will live among them for seven years, or eight, or nine. The living will wish that the dead were brought to life again to witness the great good that Allah brought about for the people of the earth.”

And at-Tabarani narrated from ‘Awf ibn Malik ؓ that the Prophet ﷺ said:

“How will you be, O ‘Awf, when this Ummah splits into seventy-three groups, one of them in Paradise and the rest of them in the Fire?”

I said: “And when will that be, O Messenger of Allah?”

He ؓ said: “When the policemen are in debt, and slave women rule, and the obese sit upon the minbar, and the Qur’an is sung like music, and the masajid are decorated, and the manabir are elevated, and the fay’ goes only to the wealthy, and zakah is treated like a debt, and a trust like a booty, and the religion is learnt for the sake of other than Allah, and the man obeys his wife, dishonours his mother and turns away from his father, and the latter ones of this Ummah curse the former ones, and the chief of the tribe is the most evil of them, and the leader of the people is the most ignoble of them, and a man will be honoured out of

fear of his evil. On that day will it occur, and the people will move on that day to ash-Sham, where they will be protected from their enemy.”

I said: “And will ash-Sham be conquered?” He ﷺ said: “Yes, very soon. Then trials will follow after its conquest, then a dark and dusky trial. Then more trials will come after each other, until a man comes from my household called the Mahdi. So if you reach him, then follow him, and be of the rightly-guided.”

And Ibn Abi Shaybah narrated from Abul-Jild that he said:

“There will be a trial followed by another trial. The first one compared to the second will be like the lash of a whip followed by the stroke of a sword. Then there will follow another trial in which all of the prohibitions will be violated. Then the Khilafah of the best of the people of the earth will come, while he is sitting in his house.”

And Nu’aym ibn Hammad, Ibn ‘Asakir, and Tammam in his Fawa’id, narrated from Abu Qubayl, from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr ﷺ that he said:

“A man will come, from the descendants of al-Hasan. If the firm mountains were to face him, he would shatter them and make pathways through them.”

And Nu’aym narrated from ‘Ali ﷺ that he said:

“When a caller announces from the sky that the right is with the family of Muhammad ﷺ, at that time the Mahdi will be on everyone’s lips. They will be filled with love for him, and they will not mention anything other than him.”

And ad-Dani narrated from Shahr ibn Hawshab that he said: “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“In Ramadhan there will be a voice, in Shawwal there will be great bloodshed, in Dhul-Qi’dah the tribes will fight, and its sign is that those performing the Hajj will be plundered, and there will be a massacre at Mina in which many are killed, and much blood is shed, until it flows over the Pillar. Their leader will flee, and they will come to him between ar-Rukn and al-Maqam and give him the bay’ah against his will. It will be said to him: “If you refuse, we will cut off your head.” The inhabitants of the

heavens and the earth will be pleased with him.”

And Nu’aym ibn Hammad and al-Hakim narrated from ‘Amr ibn Shu’ayb from his father, from his grandfather, that he said: “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“In Dhul-Qi’dah, the tribes will oppose each other. In that year the people performing the Hajj will be looted, and the battle of Mina will take place. Many people will be killed and much bloodshed will occur, until the blood flows over Jamrat al-‘Aqabah, and until their leader flees and they come to him between ar-Rukn and al-Maqam, where they will give bay’ah to him, but he will be unwilling. It will be said to him: “If you refuse, we will cut off your head.” So a number equal to that of the people of Badr will give bay’ah to him. The inhabitants of the heavens and the earth will be pleased with him.”

And Nu’aym ibn Hammad also narrated from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr ﷺ that he said:

“The people will perform the Hajj together, and will stand at ‘Arafat together, without an imam. While they are staying at Mina, he [i.e. the Sufyani, here referring to his army] will pounce on them like a dog. So the tribes will rise up, fighting each other until al-‘Aqabah flows with blood. So they will rush to the best of them, and will come to him while he is pressing his face to the Ka’bah and weeping. It is as if I can see him and his tears.

So they will say: “Come to us, we will give you bay’ah.” So he will say: “Woe to you! How many covenants you have broken, and how much blood you have shed!” So he will be given the bay’ah against his will. If you live to reach him, then give him bay’ah, for he is the Mahdi on earth, and the Mahdi in heaven.”

And Nu’aym narrated from Ibn ‘Abbas ﷺ that he said:

“Allah will send the Mahdi after a period of despair, until the people say: “There is no Mahdi.” His supporters will be a group of the people of ash-Sham, three hundred and fifteen in number, equal to the companions of Badr. They will go to him from ash-Sham, until they bring him out from the bottom of Makkah, from a house near as-Safa, then they will give him the bay’ah against his will. So he will lead them in two rak’ahs of prayer, the prayer of a traveller, at al-Maqam. Then he will ascend the minbar.”

And Ibn Jarir narrated in Tahdhib al-Athar the following:

“Your ruler al-Jabir will be the best of the Ummah of Muhammad. Go to join him in Makkah, for he is the Mahdi, and his name is Muhammad ibn ‘Abdillah. Al-Abdal [the great righteous men] from ash-Sham and the ‘Usab [groups] of the people of the east will go to him, with hearts like iron bars, worshipers at night and lions by day.”

And Nu’aym narrated from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr ibn al-‘As ؓ that he said:

“The sign of the coming of the Mahdi is that an army will be swallowed by the earth at al-Bayda’. When that happens, that is the sign of the coming of the Mahdi.”

And at-Tabarani in al-Awsat narrated from Umm Salamah ؓ that she said: “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“The king of the west will travel to the king of the east and kill him. He will send an army to al-Madinah and they will be swallowed by the earth. Then he will send an army, and a group from the people of al-Madinah will come out, and a seeker of refuge will take refuge in the Haram. The people will gather around him like a flock of birds, until three hundred and fourteen have gathered around him, among them both men and women. He will be victorious over every tyrant and the son of a tyrant, and he will display such justice that the living will wish that the dead were alive again [to witness it]. He will live for seven years, and after that, under the ground will be better than above it.”

And ad-Dani narrated from Hudhayfah ؓ that he said: “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“There will be a battle at az-Zawra’.” They said: “O Messenger of Allah, what is az-Zawra’?” He said: “A city in the east, between rivers, in which reside the worst of Allah’s creation, the tyrants of my Ummah. It will be afflicted with four kinds of punishment: The sword, swallowing by the earth, being pelted with stones, and transformation into animals.”

And he said ؓ: “When the black people come out in pursuit of the Arabs they will be discovered, until they are cast into the bottom of the earth” – or he said: “the bottom

of the Jordan.” – “When that happens to them, the Sufyani will come out accompanied by three hundred and sixty riders, until he comes to Damascus. Before a month has passed, thirty thousand of the tribe of Kalb will give him the bay’ah. So he will send an army to al-‘Iraq, killing at az-Zawra’ a hundred thousand, and going down to al-Kufah and plundering it.

When that happens, a banner will come out from the east, led by a man from Banu Tamim called Shu’ayb ibn Salih, who will recover all that is in their hands from the captives of the people of al-Kufah, and kill them.

Another one of the Sufyani’s armies will go to al-Madinah and plunder it for three days. Then they will go towards Makkah, until when they are at al-Bayda’, Allah ﷻ will send Jibril ؑ and say: “O Jibril, punish them!” So he will strike them once with his foot, and Allah ﷻ will cause them to be swallowed into the earth, and none of them will remain except for two men, who will then go to the Sufyani and inform him of the swallowing of his army, but that will not shock him.

Then some men from Quraysh will flee to Constantinople, so the Sufyani will send a message to the ruler of the Romans: “Send them all back to me.” He said: “So they will be sent back to him, and they will be beheaded at the gate of the city of Damascus.”

Hudhayfah ؓ said: “It will be such that a woman wearing a single garment will be taken around in the main masjid of Damascus in full view of everyone, until she comes and sits on the thigh of the Sufyani while he is sitting in the mihrab. So a man from the Muslims will stand up and say: “Woe to you! Have you disbelieved after you had faith? This is not allowed!” So he [i.e. the Sufyani] will stand up and behead him in the masjid of Damascus, and he will kill everyone who sympathized with what that man had done.

When that happens, a caller will announce from the sky: “O people! Allah ﷻ has brought the period of the tyrants, the hypocrites and their sympathizers to an end for you! And He ﷻ has appointed as your leader the best of the Ummah of Muhammad ﷺ, so go to him in Makkah, for he is the Mahdi, and his name is Ahmad ibn ‘Abdillah.”

Hudhayfah ؓ said: “So ‘Imran ibn Husayn stood up and said: “O Messenger of Allah, how will we recognize him?”

So he ﷺ said: “He will be a man from my children, like a man from the children of Banu Isra’il, wearing two tasselled robes, his face like a glittering star in its colour. On his right cheek will be a black mole, and he will be forty years old.

Al-Abdal [the great righteous men] and their likes will come out of ash-Sham, and the nobles of Egypt will go out to him, also the ‘Asa’ib [the groups] of the people of the east and their likes, until they come to Makkah and give the bay’ah to him between ar-Rukn and al-Maqam.

Then he will go out, heading for ash-Sham, with Jibril before him and Mika’il behind him. The inhabitants of the heaven and the earth, and the birds and the beasts, and the fish in the sea, will all rejoice at his coming. There will be much water during his rule, the rivers will flow in abundance, the earth will bring forth increased amounts of crops, and all of the treasures will be brought out.

So he will come to ash-Sham, and the Sufyani will be slaughtered under the tree that grows by the lake of Tabariyyah, and he will kill Kalb.”

Hudhayfah ؓ said: “The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: “The loser is the one who misses out on the Day of Kalb, even so much as a hobbling-rope.”

Hudhayfah ؓ said: “O Messenger of Allah, how will it be lawful to fight them when they are muwahhidun [monotheists]?”

So the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: “O Hudhayfah, on that day they will be apostates (murtad). They will declare intoxicants to be lawful (halal), and they will not pray (i.e. Salah).”

And Abu ‘Amr ad-Dani narrated in his Sunan from Hudhayfah ؓ that he said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“There will be a battle at az-Zawra” to the end of the hadith, and it contains:

“So the Mahdi will turn around, and he will find that ‘Isa ibn Maryam has descended from the sky in two garments, as if water is dripping from his head.”

So Abu Hurayrah ؓ said: “I would stand up for him, O Messenger of Allah, and embrace him!” So he ﷺ said: “O

Abu Hurayrah, his coming this time will not be like his first coming. He will be of frightening appearance, like that of death. He will give good tidings to some people of their degrees in Paradise. The imam will say to him: “Come forward and lead the people in the prayer.” So ‘Isa will say to him: “The prayer was established only for you.” So ‘Isa will pray behind him,” to the end of the hadith.

And Nu’aym ibn Hammad also narrated from Abu Sadiq that he said:

“The Mahdi will not come until the Sufyani rules over its forests [i.e. over the forests of ash-Sham].”